

DECISION MEMO
Forest Plan Amendment No. 6
Clearwater National Forest
Clearwater County, Idaho

The purpose of amendment No. 6 of the Clearwater National Forest Plan is to change the water quality objective for Bim and Bear Creeks (see Appendix K, pages K-2 through K-9). This change is being made due to new information gathered since the Forest Plan was developed.

Currently, the water quality objective for Bim and Bear Creeks is "basic". Electrofishing samples and fish habitat surveys have shown that both Bim and Bear Creek have resident populations of westslope cutthroat trout, a Region One sensitive species. The present water quality objective of "basic" does not offer protection of these populations consistent with that of the receiving stream, which is Skull Creek (an Idaho Stream Segment of Concern). To protect the habitat in these trout streams at a level consistent with the mainstem habitat, the water quality objective is being changed from "basic" to "high fish" for cutthroat trout. The need for this change was identified during the environmental analysis for the Mid-Skull/Upper Bear Timber Sale conducted on the North Fork Ranger District (see Mid-Skull/Upper Bear Final EIS, Chapter 2, Features Common to All Action Alternatives). The change is recommended in the Record of Decision for the Mid-Skull/Upper Bear Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analysis conducted during Forest Plan implementation [36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5]. I have determined the proposed changes are not significant, since they are minor adjustments and will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

Adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Clearwater National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This amendment is categorically excluded from further documentation in an EIS or EA (FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.15).

Additional information can be obtained from:

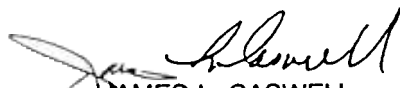
Doug Gochnour
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Art Bourassa
District Ranger
North Fork Ranger District
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Implementation of this decision shall not occur for seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice (36 CFR 217.10). This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.8 and 36 CFR 217.9. Notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be submitted, in writing, within 45 days following the publication of this decision to:

David F. Jolly, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, Montana 59807

The appeal period will begin on December 21, 1993 and end February 3, 1994.


JAMES L. CASWELL
Forest Supervisor

Date 12/20/93

**Clearwater National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan**

**AMENDMENT NO. 6
December 1993**

Page K-9, List of Specific Stream Systems and Water Quality Criteria, Forest Plan

Change to read as follows (add lines in bold print):

<u>Watershed (& Critical Reach)</u>	<u>Channel Type</u>	<u>Indicator Species</u>	<u>Water Quality Objective</u>	<u>Allowable Yrs in 30 Exceeding Threshold</u>
NF CLEARWATER R abv Aquarius	B	Cutthroat	no effect	0
SKULL Cr blw COLLINS Cr	B	Cutthroat	high fish	10
COLLINS Cr	B	Cutthroat	no effect	0
SKULL Cr abv COLLINS	B	Cutthroat	high fish	10
BIM Cr	A	Cutthroat	high fish	10
BEAR Cr	A	Cutthroat	high fish	10
QUARTZ Cr blw COUGAR	B	Cutthroat	high fish	10

END OF AMENDMENT